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through a solid phase extraction device to obtain a specimen comprising separated unconjugated saccharide, i.e., solid phase extraction is used to separate the conjugated saccharide component in the sample from the unconjugated saccharide component (page 2, lines 18-20). Neither Bardotti *et al.* (*Vaccine* 18:1982-1993 (2000)) or EP 0462794) discloses a method having this step, and EP 0462794 does not relate to analysis of a sample's unconjugated saccharide content. Thus Groups I and II share a common technical special technical feature that makes a contribution over the art, and therefore are linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Accordingly, reconsideration of the requirement for restriction between Groups I and II is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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